

JDAI GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING REFORMATION OF DETENTION USE INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

Adopted by the JDAI-Indianapolis Steering Committee September 18, 2006

These Guiding Principles are not listed in order of priority, but are considered integral components of the whole that constitutes reform of detention use in Marion County, Indiana.

- Detention is a continuum of supervision – and not a building – ranging from secure custody for youth at risk of re-offending and not appearing in court, to less restrictive, non-secure detention options.
- Collaboration is a necessary tool for detention reform. For collaboration to work, all relevant stakeholders must participate and develop consensus, through negotiation and willingness to compromise, about necessary changes and the process by which change will occur.
- Disproportionate minority contact and confinement exists in the juvenile justice system in Marion County. Thoughtful attention, dialogue and solutions are expected by JDAI and community stakeholders to ensure race neutral policies and reduce these systemic disparities.
- Best professional practice defines all work regarding juvenile detention, secure and non-secure, in Marion County.
- The continuum of detention is guided by the objective of improving system efficiency and behavioral impact from operational and cost perspectives. System improvement includes case processing of juveniles held in secure detention and other forms of detention, to expedite cases, reduce length of stay, and prevent overcrowding.
- Adolescent developmental needs must be taken into account regarding detention as a continuum of supervision.
- Detention use is driven by valid, adequate and objective data, and is oriented toward action and practical results, in which recommendations for reform are prioritized and discussions become measurable actions.
- Cost savings achieved by reducing secure detention will be re-allocated into the development, expansion and/or maintenance of effective activities, services and programs.
- There are two (2) purposes for secure detention of children prior to adjudication:
 - to prevent delinquent behavior before trial or sentencing;
 - to increase appearance rates in court at subsequent hearings.
- Placements in secure detention in Marion County conform to the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States of America.